High Powered Committee for D.D.A.

77. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the latest World Report describing D.D.A. as the most corrupt institution in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to set up a high-powered committee to critically examine the functioning of D.D.A. and suggest/recommend measures to tackle the problem;

(d) if so, the steps contemplated by Government it this regard; and

(e) if answer to part (a) be in negative, the manner in which Government propose to tackle the problem of rising corruption in D.D.A.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In a chapter entitled on "making cities livable" under the sub-heading "service provision in developing countries" in this year's World Development Report, the World Bank has stated as under:

".....K.J. Alphons, described the agency he worked for, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), as "the most corrupt institution in the country". Those who corrupt it, he added, help illegal builders grab DDA land and then build houses and shops that are sold to unwitting buyers. Unauthorised buildings range from shanties for the poor to shopping centres for the middle class to mansions for the rich, all established on Government land under false pretenses, with political complicity. Moreover, Alphons reported nothing gets built, legal or illegal, without a bribe....."

The acting Vice-President, External Affairs, World Bank, Washington has clarified to the DDA that the quotation was originally printed in May 4, 1995, issue of the Farr Eastern Economic Review and that the World Development report has published the same in good faith, and was not directed at any individual or an association of individuals.

The above statements pertaining to DDA are a not based on any scientific studies.

(c) to (e) The Estimates Committee of the Parliament has examined the entire Working of the DDA in detail and submitted its report in March, 1997.

The Delhi Development Authority in close coordination with Department of Personnel and Training and Central Vigilance Commission has taken a number of anti-corruption measures which fall broadly in the category of surveilance/detective vigilance, punitive action and preventive action.

Apart from keeping watch on officials/officers of doubtful integrity as per the guidelines prescribed by the Department of Personnel & Training, rotational transfers of employees in sensitive posts is being done in a systematic manner besides sending officers of the Vigilance Wing to training courses on a regular basis to keep themselves abreast with the latest rules and regulations.

Double Water Connections in Aram Bagh

78. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Block Nos. 143 to 163 in Aram Bagh have been provided with double water connections;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not providing double water connection in Block Nos. 166 to 201;

(d) by when double water connection will be provided in these blocks; and

(e) the action proposed by Government to remove the scarcity of drinking water in Aram Bagh, particularly in Block Nos. 166 to 201.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Water connections to block Nos. 143 to 163 in Aram Bagh housing colony have been provided directly from the line feeding the overhead tank as well as through terrace tank on an experimental basis.

(c) and (d) Since this experiment did not prove sucessful due to insufficient quantity of water supply from Delhi Jal Board, the double connections were not provided in other blocks.